

party there in January 1996. Clearly the species does breed at this altitude and in rough, cultivated land.

Apparently unrecorded nest sites for Black-winged Lovebird *Agapornis taranta* and Hemprich's Hornbill *Tockus hemprichii*

On 17 September 1993 John Atkins and I stopped at the bridge over a small stream about 3 km southeast of Mojo, northwest of Nazareth on the main Addis Ababa–Awash–Assab road.

A pair of Black-winged Lovebirds *Agapornis taranta* was found obviously feeding young in a hole in the vertical earth cliff 30 m downstream of the bridge. The hole was about 3 m above the ground and the same distance below the top of the small cliff. It was almost round and isolated. Both birds were noisily agitated when we first approached but after a few minutes settled down and visited the hole, apparently to feed young inside.

Fry *et al.* (1988) only mention tree cavities as known nesting sites so this adaptation, in the increasingly tree-improverished landscape of Ethiopia, may help to ensure the survival of a delightful endemic, which, incidentally, is still systematically caught for caging in spite of local laws protecting it.

Later, a pair of Hemprich's Hornbills *Tockus hemprichii* was watched prospecting a narrow crevice in the broken masonry of the old bridge. The female was entering the crevice and calling to the male from inside. Fry *et al.* (1988) recorded "natural holes in rock faces" as the most usual nest site but do not mention man-made structures. Although not evidence of breeding, our observation suggests that holes in man-made structures can be utilized.

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Disturbance of Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* nests by Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus swainsonii*

On 5 December 1995, while watching a small colony of Plain Martins *Riparia paludicola* at about 20 m distance in the opposite sandy bank of a small fast-flowing river near Lake Abiata, Ethiopia, the unusual behaviour of some Grey-headed Sparrows *Passer griseus swainsonii* was noticed. One of these sparrows entered one of the nest-holes and shortly after flew out and dropped a nestling martin. As AJP was examining this, only a few metres from the nest-hole, another nestling, probably from this

same nest, was dropped nearby by the same or another sparrow. Shortly afterwards two Grey-headed Sparrows were seen at the entrance of the martin's nest-hole. One entered the tunnel while the other sat on the edge and an apparently distressed martin flew about nearby. The sparrows stayed at the nest for several minutes before flying off at which point we also left.

As the sparrows were not taking the nestlings for food it would appear likely that they were intending to take the nest-hole over for themselves.

Grey-headed Sparrow nest sites include holes in buildings, and they have also been known to take over disused nests of other species (Summers-Smith 1988, Clement *et al.* 1993). However, we have found no reference to them, or to Grey-headed Sparrows in other parts of Africa, nesting in sandbanks or taking over nests that are already occupied (Keith *et al.* 1992, Turner & Rose 1989).

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A new location for the Usambara Eagle Owl *Bubo vosseleri*

Stuart & Jensen (1981) documented range extensions and other notable records of forest birds in Tanzania. Since then the University of Copenhagen has been carrying out biodiversity studies of the Udzungwa and Uluguru forest systems. These studies have already produced two new species and further range extensions for the Udzungwas (Dinesen *et al.* 1993, Jensen & Brøgger-Jensen 1992, Jensen 1983).

In November 1995, we visited the Uluguru montane forest and discovered another notable range extension. Having perused the draft Uluguru biodiversity report (Svendsen & Hansen 1995), we decided to camp at the junction of the Kihilili and Nyachiro paths at an altitude of 1550 m in the centre of the North Uluguru Forest Reserve. Our main purpose was to locate the Uluguru Bush Shrike *Malaconotus alius* but the draft report also indicated possible sightings of a large owl in that area.

On 22 November, at around 17:45, EM indicated that he had heard an owl reminiscent of the call that he had heard previously in the Usambara Forest, when accompanying David Moyer. No further calls were noted that night. During the following night at 03:30, all three of us clearly heard the call of *Bubo vosseleri* (formerly the Nduk Eagle Owl *Bubo poensis*), perhaps best described as a drawn out, quavering, haunting two-